

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

MAY 2021

Downed Power Line Safety

Power lines are a vulnerable component of power utilities. Anything from a simple car accident to a major disaster can cause damage to overhead power lines. If you ever come across a downed power line, always assume that it is energized.

Don't Be Shocked

Staying safe means being aware of the surroundings and potential dangers. Any downed power line should be treated as if it is energized even if it is not sparking, smoking, or making a buzzing sound. Remember these safety rules:

- ⇒ Stay away from the downed lines, Idaho Power Company suggests a distance of 100 yards if possible.
- ⇒ Report the incident immediately, in the Treasure Valley call Idaho Power at **1-800-488-6151** or dial **911**.
- ⇒ Do not touch objects that are near or in contact with the line. If someone else touches it, do not touch them because the electricity may flow to you. Call 911 immediately for assistance.
- ⇒ Be especially aware of your surroundings when driving after a damaging storm. If a power line is down on the ground in water, do not drive your car through the water.

Follow these steps if you find yourself in your vehicle and a power line falls on it:

- ⇒ Stay inside the vehicle and dial 911 if possible. Warn others to stay away and not touch the vehicle.
- ⇒ If it is no longer safe to stay in the vehicle because of a life threatening situation, open the door and jump out and away from the vehicle as far as possible. Keep your feet together and land on both feet. With your feet side by side, shuffle away from the area at least 100 ft. Do not lift either foot or touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

To learn more about power line safety, visit the [Idaho Power website](https://www.idahopower.com).



Photo courtesy of Idaho Power Company

Electrical Dangers Inside Your Home



A disaster event can create chaos inside structures. Floors and objects could be in contact with frayed or broken wires and could be conducting electricity. If there is water in or near electrical circuits or equipment, turn off the power at the main breaker or fuse in the service panel (breaker box). Never touch electrical switches or equipment while standing in water. If the floor is wet in front of the service panel, it may not be safe to approach it; call a professional electrician to turn the power off and inspect the electrical system.

